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The Attorney General

March 15, 1948

Director, FBI

RECORDED
141
UNKNOWN SUBJECTS:
Alleged Irregularities
Missouri Primary Election
August 6, 1946, Kansas City, Missouri
THEFT OF BALLOTS, ELECTION LAWS
56-639-997

Reference is made to my memorandum of March 3, 1948 wherein you were advised that John Murray Gould had refuted his previous claim that he possessed complete knowledge concerning the theft of the ballots in Kansas City.

For your additional information in connection with this matter, I am enclosing herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent Hugh Charles Bowell dated March 4, 1948 at Atlanta, Georgia. This report reveals that Gould related the details of the burglarizing of the vault, removal of the ballots and the identity of the individuals participating. When pressed for specific details relating to the burglary, he disclaimed any knowledge concerning the burglary other than that previously furnished to Mr. R. K. Phelps, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, Kansas City, Missouri.

Enclosure

cc - Assistant Attorney General T. Vincent Quinn
Criminal Division

KW:ms

Declassification authority derived
from FBI Automatic Declassification
Guide, issued May 24, 2007

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
56-639

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| SENT FROM D. C. | |
| TIME | 6:00 AM |
| DATE | 3-16-48 |
| BY | JK |

APR 2 1948
WD

Mr. Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Olavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Atlanta, Georgia
March 4, 1948

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI

K
RE: MOPRI; Theft of Ballots
ELECTION LAWS
(Bufile 56-639)

Dear Sir:

There are attached copies of the report of Special Agent HUGH CHARLES BOSWELL dated at Atlanta, March 4, 1948, which report covers the results of the re-interview with JOHN MURRAY GOULD at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, on March 3, 1948.

At the outset of the interview with GOULD the following signed statement was obtained from him inasmuch as it was known he had alleged that there was a misunderstanding between him and Mr. R. K. PHELPS, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, as to what information he would furnish and what action Mr. PHELPS would take.

"Atlanta, Ga.

March 3, 1948

DEFERRED RECORDING

"I, John Murray Gould, an inmate of the U. S. Penitentiary at Atlanta, Georgia, advise that providing the Attorney General of the United States, Mr. Tom C. Clark, effects the reinstatement to me of the 1800 days statutory good time which has previously been revoked I will furnish to Special Agent H. C. Boswell of the Federal Bureau of Investigation full and complete information concerning the identities of the individuals responsible for the theft of the ballots at the Jackson County Court House, Kansas City, Missouri, on May 27, 1947. I will furnish the following specific information:

The source of the dynamite cap and nitroglycerin used in the burglary and who obtained it.

cc of letter - Detroit
cc each - Detroit
cc to Billings
AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

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CHIEF MAIL ROOM
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Director, FBI
Atlanta - 3/4/48

RE: MOPRI; Theft of Ballots
ELECTION LAWS

" The identity of a public official who advised as to the legal effect the theft of the ballots would have upon State indictments outstanding for vote fraud and the identity of witnesses.

The identities of two men that opened the vault door.

The identity of a third man in the garage in the Jackson County Court House while the burglary was being perpetrated.

The identity of a fourth man who waited outside with me while the burglary was in progress.

The identity of the individual who obtained the ballots and brought them to the outside of the Court House.

Who obtained the soap used in the burglary and the general neighborhood from which this soap was obtained and possibly the place from where it was obtained.

The identity of the individual who had the string and the pillow used in the burglary.

The identity of the individual who had the key to the inner room in which the vault is located.

What cars were used in the burglary.

Who arranged the theft.

Who paid for the burglary and the identity of three who received payment.

Hearsay information as to the tools which were used.

The identities of others than those participating who have knowledge of those involved in the burglary.

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Director, FBI
Atlanta - 3/4/48

RE: MOPRI; Theft of Ballots
ELECTION LAWS

" I will also furnish information as to the location of certain of the ballots and other election material stolen in the burglary which will enable its recovery.

I will also furnish hearsay information as to the disposition made of the remaining ballots and election material taken in the burglary.

I will testify to the following items in the event this case comes to trial in U. S. District Court:

The identities of each of the five men participating and the part each played.

Who paid for the burglary and how much was paid to three participants.

The identity of a public official who advised the legal effect the theft of the ballots would have upon State indictments for vote fraud then outstanding, together with the identities of witnesses.

The source of the blasting cap and nitroglycerin.

What cars were used in the burglary.

The identity of the individual who had the key to the inner door to room in which the vault is located.

The identity of the third man to the burglary who was in the garage upon the arrival of the burglars and who remained there after the burglary was completed.

I will also testify as to the disposition made of a portion of the ballots and election material.

This information will be furnished by me only on condition that the 1800 days statutory good time previously revoked is returned to me.

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Director, FBI
Atlanta - 3/4/48

RE: MOPRI; Theft of Ballots
ELECTION LAWS

"I understand that if the information I furnish is not accurate and correct and does not result in the identification of all those directly implicated in the burglary my good time will be revoked and I must continue to serve the 1800 days in the U. S. Penitentiary.

Signed

John Murray Gould.

Witness:

George P. Dillard, Special Agent, F.B.I., Atlanta
H. C. Boswell, Sp. Agt. F.B.I.

The statement is being transmitted to the Kansas City Office as an enclosure with this letter.

After GOULD had executed this statement, Mr. THOMAS J. GOUGH, Acting Warden, United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Georgia, exhibited to GOULD a photostatic copy of the conditional release to be granted, effective April 26, 1948, and explained to GOULD that this release was conditioned upon the furnishing of full and complete information concerning the burglary of the vault in Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. GOUGH advised GOULD of the conditional release and its conditions in the presence of Special Agents GEORGE P. DILLARD and HUGH CHARLES BOSWELL.

Immediately following Mr. GOUGH's informing GOULD of the above facts, GOULD furnished the information as set out in the report attached.

GOULD stated that he would never have misled the Attorney General except for the promises which had been made to him by Mr. R. K. PHELPS, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, who had "failed to keep his word". He stated that his original plan was to furnish this fictitious information and to continue to furnish additional fictitious information as discrepancies in his original story

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Director, FBI
Atlanta -3/4/48

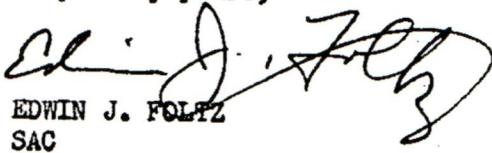
RE: MOPRI; Theft of Ballots
ELECTION LAWS

were discovered until the government was able to conclude that his information was untrue. As the interview progressed it became increasingly apparent that GOULD would not or could not furnish information on points concerning the burglary of which he necessarily would have knowledge had the information he gave been factual. Although he stated he has too much regard for the FBI to follow through with his original plan, it appears that the only reason that he stated the information given was false was the realization that it was apparent to the interviewing agents that he was not able to furnish many details concerning the burglary which he should have possessed.

He added that his actions have been motivated by vindictiveness.

On March 3, 1948, GOULD was interviewed from approximately 9:45 AM to 11:45 AM, and from 1:30 PM to approximately 3:00 PM. It was necessary to split the interview to afford him an opportunity to receive his noon day meal.

Very truly yours,


EDWIN J. FOLTZ
SAC

Encls. - 1

Copy: Kansas City (AMSD) (W/Encls.-2)

HCB:mos
56-18

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT KANSAS CITY

FILE NO. 56-18

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|---|---------------------------------|---|---|
| REPORT MADE AT Atlanta, Georgia | DATE WHEN MADE 3/4/48 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/3/48 | REPORT MADE BY HUGH CHARLES BOSWELL mos |
| TITLE MOPRI; Theft of Ballots | | CHARACTER OF CASE ELECTION LAWS | |

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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

JOHN MURRAY GOULD, Inmate, U. S. Penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga., advised he burglarized Board of Election Commissioner's vault, Kansas City, Mo., morning of May 28, 1947. Stated was assisted by **JOHNNY MANGIARACINA**, who opened "dust door" of vault after he, GOULD, had opened outer door through use of explosives. Advised **THOMAS SIMONE** and **JACK BRICE**, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Jackson County, Mo., remained in garage of Courthouse during time burglary in progress, and entrance to room in which vault located gained through use of key in possession of BRICE. Stated **JOE CUMMINGS** remained on outside of Courthouse during burglary. GOULD claimed nitro-glycerin and blasting cap used in burglary obtained from **"BUZZ WILSON**, who allegedly obtained items from **HARRY ALLEN**, rock quarry operator south of Kansas City. Stated **CHARLIE BINAGGIO** and **NICK PENNA**, Kansas City, Mo., had knowledge of burglary. GOULD, when pressed for details of burglary which he would have been obliged to possess if facts as given true, claimed story was fictitious. Disclaimed any knowledge concerning burglary other than that previously furnished R. K. PHELPS, Special Assistant to Attorney General, Kansas City, Mo. Denied any connection with or implication in burglary.

COPIES DESTROYED

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56-639-997

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|--|----------------------------|--|---|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Chas J. Holt</i> | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | ENCLOSURE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT 4 - Bureau (AMSD) (cc - AG - 3/15/48 KW) 3 - Kansas City (AMSD) 2 - Atlanta | | 156-639-997 F B E 21 MAR 25 1948 | RECORDED & INDEXED 7474 184 |

Atlanta 56-18

REFERENCE: Bureau File 56-639

Report of Special Agent WILLIAM M. HAWKINS, dated January 15, 1948, at Kansas City, Missouri

DETAILS:

On March 3, 1948, JOHN MURRAY GOULD, Inmate Number 67775, in the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed by Special Agents GEORGE P. DILLARD and HUGH CHARLES BOSWELL. GOULD advised that in April of 1947 he was contacted by JOHNNY MANGIARACINA and THOMAS "HIGHWAY" SIMONE, at which time he was propositioned to commit a burglary, the nature of which was not explained to him. He stated that these individuals told him that he would be paid \$5,000 for the burglary, and he agreed to do the job. He stated, however, that MANGIARACINA and SIMONE later agreed to pay him \$500 in cash and give to him a late model Chrysler Windsor owned by SIMONE and a late model Dodge owned by MANGIARACINA. He stated that later he learned that the burglary which he was to perpetrate was of the vault at the Board of Election Commissioners, Kansas City, Missouri. He stated that he had discussed this burglary with CHARLIE BINAGGIO, who had instigated the plans for the burglary according to statements of MANGIARACINA and SIMONE.

GOULD stated that it was agreed on Saturday, May 17, 1947, to burglarize the vault on Monday, May 26, 1947. He stated, however, that he had been told on Sunday preceding the burglary that it was to be "pulled" on Tuesday night, May 27, 1947.

GOULD advised that he obtained nitroglycerin and three blasting caps from "BUZZ" WILSON, who was a bar tender for JOE CUMMINGS in Kansas City, Missouri. He stated that WILSON obtained this nitroglycerin and the blasting caps from HARRY ALLEN, operator of a rock quarry south of Kansas City, Missouri. He stated that neither WILSON nor ALLEN had any knowledge as to what use the nitroglycerin and blasting caps were to be put.

GOULD advised that he told MANGIARACINA and SIMONE that he, GOULD, would be the first suspected of the burglary in view of his past record, and they suggested to him that he establish an alibi by having a party on the night of the burglary. He stated this was the reason that he was with JOE and CARRETT RIBANDO, CARL and JOSEPHINE CARUSO, and FRANK and JENNIE ROCKFORD at the Normandy Bar and College Inn in Kansas City until approximately 2:00 or 2:30 AM on the morning of May 28, 1947.

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GOULD stated that while he was at the College Inn with the other persons in his party CHARLIE BINAGGIO and NICK PENNA observed him, and BINAGGIO advised him, GOULD, that SIMONE and MANGIARACINA were at the Jungle Club on East 10th Street in Kansas City, and that he, GOULD, should take his associates home and contact MANGIARACINA and SIMONE. He stated he was drinking considerably and stayed at the College Inn for several more minutes, and PENNA approached him and told him he should immediately get rid of the persons in his party and contact SIMONE and MANGIARACINA at the Jungle Club.

GOULD stated he took the RIBANDOs, the ROCKFORDs, and the CARUSOs home, drove his Buick automobile to the fruit stand operated by MARY ~~BONOMO~~ and JOE RIBANDO, where he left it, and picked up a Plymouth which he then owned. He stated the nitroglycerin and the blasting caps were hidden behind the rear seat of this Plymouth and he felt that this car would be less conspicuous than the Buick. He added that he drove this car to the Jungle Club, and there saw MANGIARACINA and SIMONE, who were in the company of JOE CUMMINGS. He stated that SIMONE suggested he park his car in the parking lot adjacent to the Jungle Club, which he did. He stated he then got in the Chrysler owned by THOMAS SIMONE. SIMONE and he proceeded to 13th Street between Oak and Locust, where the car was parked. He stated that MANGIARACINA and CUMMINGS went to the Courthouse, in CUMMINGS' automobile, but that he, GOULD, did not know the point where the car was parked by them.

GOULD stated he walked from SIMONE's car to the Courthouse and arrived at the garage about the same time that MANGIARACINA arrived there. He stated that JACK BRICE, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Jackson County, Missouri, was in the garage of the Jackson County Courthouse, and opened a door which led into the room in which the vault was located. He stated that MANGIARACINA went into the room where the vault was located with him and brought with him the tools which were used in the burglary. He stated he had the nitroglycerin and the blasting caps on his person when he entered the Courthouse.

GOULD advised SIMONE remained in the garage of the Courthouse with BRICE, and CUMMINGS remained in the courtyard behind and outside the Courthouse while the burglary was in progress.

GOULD advised he first taped the dial of the vault and with a hammer which had been brought to the scene of the burglary by MANGIARACINA knocked the dial from the shaft. He stated he had intended to "punch" the vault, but that after striking the locking

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mechanism a couple of times that MANGIARACINA had told him that this was making too much noise and that he should use nitroglycerin.

GOULD added he forced a quantity of cotton into the opening at the point where the dial had been. He stated he accomplished this through use of a fingernail clipper. He stated he thereafter built up a cup on the outside of the vault door and immediately below the hole where the spindle was attached to the dial, and introduced nitroglycerin into the hole through the use of an eye dropper. He stated the cotton absorbed the nitroglycerin. He stated he then placed the blasting cap into the hole and against the cotton containing the nitroglycerin. He added that MANGIARACINA had brought a pillow and string and a coat hanger to the scene of the burglary, and that these items were used to deaden the sound of the explosive. He stated that the pillow was tied against the point where the nitroglycerin was placed in the vault and was held in place by the string and the coat hanger.

GOULD stated that he got under a table inside the room in which the vault is located and through the use of a flashlight battery detonated the blasting cap which set off the nitroglycerin. He added that the amount of nitroglycerin used had caused the handle to the vault door to be blown off, and it was found after the explosion that the door would not open and that the lugs holding the door locked could not be moved. It was necessary, therefore, to use a bar to exert sufficient pressure to cause the bars to become disengaged, thereby permitting the door to open.

GOULD stated that MANGIARACINA pried the "dust door" or inner door of the vault open and went into the vault and placed the ballots and other election material in two sacks. He stated that one of the sacks appeared to be a pillow slip and the other a flour or sugar sack. He stated that SIMONE had obtained one of the sacks from Fifth and Grand at a vacant lot across the street from a Democratic Club located at that point. He stated there are frequently large quantities of sacks on this vacant lot.

GOULD stated that MANGIARACINA had handed to him one of the sacks containing part of the stolen election material and that he, GOULD, had taken from this sack a quantity of papers and had concealed them under his coat. He stated that none of the other participants to the burglary had knowledge that he had taken any of the items stolen.

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GOULD advised they had made considerable noise during the burglary and that BRICE became impatient and on several occasions came to the door inquiring as to how much longer it was going to take for the job.

GOULD advised that he left the Courthouse and went to SIMONE's car and was returned by SIMONE to the Jungle Club where he, GOULD, picked up his automobile and returned to his apartment. He stated this was at approximately 6:00 AM and just about daylight.

GOULD advised that the tools, the pillow, the string, and the soap, as well as the sacks into which the election material was placed, were brought to the scene of the burglary by MANGIARACINA.

GOULD advised that later the same day, May 28, 1947, he was riding on Fifth Street at Troost in Kansas City, Missouri, accompanied by JOE CUMMINGS, and while proceeding eastward threw the extra two blasting caps which he had out the window and to the north into a vacant lot near a school house and across the street from a drug store.

He stated that the ballots or election material he had obtained from the burglary were placed in an empty gallon can in the garage of CHARLIE GIABI, a brother-in-law of MARY BONOMO who resides in the northeast section of Kansas City, Missouri, and had covered this can with canvas which he found in the garage. He stated a few days later he had moved this material from this point. He stated he had buried the can in the yard to the southwest of the house occupied by GIABI. He stated that the can was buried approximately twenty yards from the house and approximately one and one-half to two feet deep. He stated that no one other than him had knowledge of the whereabouts of this election material.

GOULD stated that a couple of days after the burglary he was given the car by SIMONE and also the one promised him by MANGIARACINA. He stated that MANGIARACINA had also given him the \$500 in cash which he had promised. He stated the Dodge which had been given him by MANGIARACINA was titled in the name of JOE MANGIARACINA and that he had sold it to CHARLIE GIABI. He stated the Chrysler given him by SIMONE was titled to a man by the name of PIERSON and that he, GOULD, had sold this car to TOMMY WILHITE, whose address he could not furnish. He stated that he had sold the Dodge for \$2,000 and had sold the Chrysler for \$2,600. He added he never did obtain a title for the Chrysler, but had sold it without a title to WILHITE.

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GOULD stated that it was his understanding MANGIARACINA and SIMONE each received \$5,000 apiece for their part in the burglary, and suggested that the consideration for the participation on the part of BRICE was a promise of support of his candidacy for Sheriff of Jackson County in the next election. He stated he had no first hand information, however, on this point.

GOULD added that when he was questioned in Kansas City, Missouri, concerning the burglary and was in custody at the Jackson County Jail he had been called to the office of JACK BRICE, at which time BRICE had asked him what questions had been directed to him, and had advised GOULD that he had nothing to worry about, and that those who had employed him to perpetrate the burglary would protect him.

GOULD stated that approximately a month prior to the burglary and on a second occasion approximately ten days prior to the burglary he had observed BINAGGIO, MANGIARACINA, and SIMONE in a booth at College Inn, Kansas City, Missouri, with Judge COOK of the Circuit Court, Jackson County, Kansas City, Missouri. He stated that on the first occasion when he approached the booth in which these persons were seated they immediately stopped the conversation. He stated that based upon later comments of MANGIARACINA and BINAGGIO to the effect that the theft of the ballots would result in nullifying the indictments then outstanding in state court on vote fraud matters, that he deduced that the conversations with Judge COOK had been for the purpose of determining what legal effect the theft of the ballots would have on these indictments.

GOULD was questioned concerning the location of the ballots in the vault at the time the door was opened and for information as to the containers which held the ballots and other election material. He was also questioned as to the whereabouts of a step ladder found in the vault after the burglary, the action taken with respect to ventilators near the ceiling and inside the vault, and other similar questions which GOULD was obliged to be able to answer if he were, as claimed, the individual who opened the vault door. GOULD was evasive and claimed he was outside the vault door while MANGIARACINA was on the inside of the vault; that he had been drinking considerably; and that when he had opened the door he had completed his task. GOULD after repeated questioning on pertinent points of which he would have had reason to have knowledge stated that the information which he had given concerning the burglary was fictitious; that he had no information concerning the burglary other than that which he had furnished to Mr. R. K. PHELPS,

Atlanta 56-18

Special Assistant to the Attorney General, on July 16, 1947. This information is set forth on pages 313 through 318 of the report of Special Agent HUGH CHARLES BOSWELL dated August 22, 1947, at Kansas City, Missouri. He stated that in the information set forth hereinbefore the only portion which has any authenticity is that which relates to his observing BINAGGIO, MANGIARACINA and SIMONE talking with Judge COOK on two occasions in a booth at the College Inn at Kansas City, Missouri, which occurred prior to the burglary.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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Atlanta 56-18

LEADS

THE KANSAS CITY DIVISION

At Kansas City, Missouri

Will at the residence of CHARLES GIABI attempt to determine whether a portion of the election material taken in the burglary of the Election Commissioners Vault, Kansas City, Missouri, was actually buried in his yard as claimed by GOULD at the location described herein.

Will interview HARRY ALLEN, operator of a rock quarry south of Kansas City for information as to whether he sold or gave to "BUZZ" WILSON blasting caps and nitroglycerin as originally claimed by GOULD.

Will determine the identity of "BUZZ" WILSON, bar tender for JOE CUMMINGS, and interview him concerning the purchase or obtaining of blasting caps and nitroglycerin from HARRY ALLEN, which were allegedly later given to GOULD.

Will through CHARLES GIABI determine the circumstances under which the automobile obtained from GOULD was secured. Will also obtain a full and complete description of this car and determine whether it was previously owned by JOE MANGIARACINA as claimed by GOULD.

Will locate and interview TOMMY WILHITE concerning the Chrysler allegedly sold to him by GOULD, and obtain from WILHITE full details concerning this purchase. Will also obtain a complete description of the automobile and trace its title to determine whether it was previously owned by an individual named "PIERSON" as claimed by GOULD.

Will on the north side of the street at Fifth and Troost in a vacant lot attempt to locate the two blasting caps allegedly thrown there by GOULD on May 28, 1947.

When the foregoing investigation has been completed will consider the advisability of interviewing JOHNNY MANGIARACINA, THOMAS SIMONE, JOE CUMMINGS, CHARLIE BINAGGIO, and NICK PENNA. Will also

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Atlanta 56-18

consider the advisability of determining whether MANGIARACINA or SIMONE have in their homes or places of residence a pillow of the type used in the burglary.

Will after persons named by GOULD as being perpetrators are interviewed secure from them all tools of the type which could have been used in this burglary for comparison purposes with tool marks made on the vault at the time of the burglary.

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